

CLAIMS

What I claim is:

1. In an improved lifting body ship with one or more strut-like members that connect a lifting body to a hull of the ship, the improvement comprising:
said lifting body having, as seen in a bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, at least in its majority a curvilinear shape with an artificially pressurized gas layer disposed in the underside of said lifting body.
2. The improved lifting body ship of claim 1 wherein the artificially pressurized gas layer, as seen in the bottom plan view, is at least in its majority curvilinear over its forward portions.
3. The improved lifting body ship of claim 1 wherein a forward and lower portion of the artificially pressurized gas layer is defined by a discontinuity in a lower surface of the lifting body.
4. The improved lifting body ship of claim 1 wherein the artificially pressurized gas layer is supplied with pressurized gas by a powered blower with the conduit for passing the pressurized gas to the artificially pressurized gas layer from the powered blower is at least in part internal to a duct disposed, at least in its majority, inside of one of the strut-like members.
5. the improved lifting body ship of claim 1 wherein the gas layer in the underside of the artificially pressurized gas layer, at least mainly, rises going from forward to aft.
6. The improved lifting body ship of claim 1 wherein a water propulsor is at least in part disposed internal to the lifting body and takes in at least part of its water used for propulsion through one or more water inlets disposed over a top surface of the lifting

body.

7. The improved lifting body ship of claim 6 wherein said one or more water inlets are transversely oriented over an upper surface of the lifting body.

8. The improved lifting body ship of claim 7 wherein said one or more transversely oriented water inlets are, at least in their majority, aft of a longitudinal midpoint of the lifting body.

9. The improved lifting body ship of claim 1 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

10. The improved lifting body ship of claim 9 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part elliptical in shape.

11. The improved lifting body ship of claim 10 which further comprises one or more trim control hydrofoils disposed forward of the lifting body.

12. In an improved lifting body ship with one or more strut-like members that connect a lifting body to a hull of the ship, the improvement comprising:

said lifting body having, as seen in a bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, an artificially pressurized gas layer disposed in the underside of said lifting body and wherein a forward portion of the artificially pressurized gas layer is defined by a discontinuity in a lower surface of the lifting body and wherein said discontinuity, as seen in the bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

13. The improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein the lifting body, as seen in

a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

14. The improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein the artificially pressurized gas layer is supplied with pressurized gas by a powered blower with the conduit for passing the pressurized gas to the artificially pressurized gas layer from the powered blower is internal to a duct disposed, at least in its majority, inside of one of the strut-like members.

15. the improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein the gas layer in the underside of the artificially pressurized gas layer, at least mainly, rises going from forward to aft.

16. The improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein a water propulsor is at least in part disposed internal to the lifting body and takes in at least part of its water used for propulsion through one or more water inlets disposed over a top surface of the lifting body.

17. The improved lifting body ship of claim 16 wherein said one or more water inlets are transversely oriented over an upper surface of the lifting body.

18. The improved lifting body ship of claim 17 wherein said one or more transversely oriented water inlets are, at least in their majority, aft of a longitudinal midpoint of the lifting body.

19. The improved lifting body ship of claim 12 wherein the lifting body, as seen in a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

20. The improved lifting body ship of claim 19 wherein the lifting body, as seen in

a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part elliptical in shape.

21. The improved lifting body ship of claim 10 which further comprises one or more trim control hydrofoils disposed forward of the lifting body.

22. In an improved lifting body ship with one or more strut-like members that connect a lifting body to a hull of the ship, the improvement comprising:

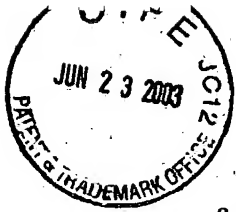
said lifting body, as seen in a bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, being at least in part curvilinear in shape and having an artificially pressurized gas layer disposed in the underside of said lifting body and which further comprises a water propulsor at least in part disposed internal to the lifting body that takes in at least part of its water used for propulsion through one or more water inlets disposed over a top surface of the lifting body and wherein said one or more water inlets are transversely oriented over an upper surface of the lifting body.

23. The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein said one or more transversely oriented water inlets are, at least in their majority, disposed aft of a longitudinal midpoint of the lifting body.

24. The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 which further comprises one or more trim control hydrofoils disposed forward of the lifting body.

25. The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein a forward portion of the artificially pressurized gas layer is defined by a discontinuity in a lower surface of the lifting body and wherein said discontinuity, as seen in the bottom plan view of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

26. The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein the lifting body, as seen in



a vertical transverse plane of the improved lifting body ship, is at least in part curvilinear in shape.

27. The improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein the artificially pressurized gas layer is supplied with pressurized gas by a powered blower with the conduit for passing the pressurized gas to the artificially pressurized gas layer from the powered blower is internal to a duct disposed, at least in its majority, inside of one of the strut-like members.

28. the improved lifting body ship of claim 22 wherein the gas layer in the underside of the artificially pressurized gas layer, at least mainly, rises going from forward to aft.